



Activity 10

Fossil Futures

Guiding Questions: How does paleontology change over time? What new technologies are used? What new things are being discovered?

Critical Content: Science and technology are constantly changing. New technologies lead to new understandings. Scientific knowledge expands as we study.

Grades: 4-8

Duration: 120 minutes (homework)

Group size: individuals or in groups of 2 or 3

Setting: classroom

Materials:

Internet access

Vocabulary:

Technology

Science

Procedures:

1. Students split into groups of one or more.
2. Each student is to use the Internet to find a new discovery about paleontology. The discovery could be a recent fossil find, a new understanding about ancient organisms or ecosystems, a new technology that scientists can use to learn more about fossils or ancient ecosystems, etc.
3. Students write a short description of the discovery and why it is interesting. Explain any new techniques used in the discovery. Include pictures or diagrams to illustrate the discovery or the techniques.

Discussion Questions:

As a class review the the discoveries and the new things that scientists are still learning about the ancient past, and the techniques that they are using.

Some Suggested Websites:

Discover Magazine (<http://www.discover.com>)

MSNBC News site (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com>)

New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>)

Reuters News Service (<http://www.reuters.com>)

Scientific American (<http://www.sciam.com>)

Yahoo News (<http://news.yahoo.com>)